

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 and 23 are pending; claims 21 and 22 have been canceled; and claims 1-2 and 23 have been amended in several particulars.

Claims 1-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph based upon a number of deficiencies kindly noted by the Examiner. The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for the following reason(s).

Note that synchronous signal separation step S20 of Figs. 5A-5D is performed not only after detection of a composite sync signal. See, for example, the flow of steps S100 to S211 to S212 to S20. Step S20 is performed even though only the vertical sync signal was detected. Accordingly, regardless of whether the detected sync signals are already separated or not, a synchronous signal separation step is performed to ensure that the horizontal sync signal is devoid of any vertical sync signals and the vertical sync signal is devoid of any horizontal sync signals. Therefore, the claims are not indefinite and accurately portray what is disclosed.

Claims 1-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as rendered obvious and unpatentable, over Inui in view of Perkins. The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for the following reason(s).

Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of claim 21 and claim 2 has been amended to include the features of claims 1 and 22. Accordingly, claims 1, 2 and 23 are independent. Claim 23 has not been rejected in view of the applied art. Claims 1, 2 and 23 call for generating reference

vertical and horizontal synchronous signals when no input is detected during the steps of checking for inputs from the vertical synchronous signal terminal, the horizontal/composite synchronous signal terminal and the synchronous-on-green terminal of a computer. The Examiner has not provided any *prima facie* basis of obviousness for rejecting claims 21 and 22, for example, and neither Inui nor Perkins teach or suggest generating reference vertical and horizontal synchronous signals when no input is detected during the steps of checking for inputs from the vertical synchronous signal terminal, the horizontal/composite synchronous signal terminal and the synchronous-on-green terminal of a computer.

In re Rijckaert, 228 USPQ2d 1955 (CAFC 1993) states:

"A *prima facie* case of obviousness is established when the teachings from the prior art itself would appear to have suggested the claimed subject matter to a person of ordinary skill in the art." *In re Bell*, 991 F.2d 781, 782, 26 USPQ2d 1529, 1531 (Fed. Cir. 1993) (quoting *In re Rhinehart*, 531 F.2d 1048, 1051, 189 USPQ 143, 147 (CCPA 1976). If the examiner fails to establish a *prima facie* case, the rejection is improper and will be overturned. *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 1074, 5 USPQ2d 1596, 1598 (Fed. Cir. 1988).

Additionally, claims 11-20 call for a step of clamping a front or back porch of the horizontal synchronous signal to a reference level. Neither Inui nor Perkins disclose such a clamping step and the Examiner has not indicated where either applied reference teaches such a clamping step. Accordingly, the Examiner has not provided a *prima facie* basis of obviousness for holding claims 11-20 obvious.

Referring again to claim 2, the invention calls for *checking a horizontal/composite synchronous signal terminal to determine whether the horizontal synchronous signal is input*. In the combination

of applied references, Inui (the Examiner applies Inui in this regard) teaches in step S1 of Fig. 2, setting multiplexer 2 to the input terminal 14 of the composite sync signal H/V and setting multiplexer 6 to the output of multiplexer 2 so that counter 7 and CPU 10 can determine, in step S2, whether an input is received via H/V terminal 14. Horizontal or vertical sync signal are detected by the count value of counter 7. If neither the horizontal nor vertical sync is detected in step S2 multiplexer 2 is set in step S3 to receive the separated sync signal from the synchronous-on-green signal (SOG) separator 1. In the present invention, however, vertical synchronous signal terminal is checked *to determine whether the vertical synchronous signal is input, when it is determined that the horizontal synchronous signal is not input from said horizontal/composite synchronous signal terminal.* In Inui, the vertical sync terminal 16 is not checked until step S10. In step S8 it is determined whether or not the horizontal sync signal was received via terminal 14 (step S1), terminal 12 (step S3) or terminal 15 (step S6). If the result of step S8 is negative then an indication that no horizontal sync signal has been received is displayed in step S9. The present invention calls for *making a determination that no synchronous signal has been input... and returning to said step of checking said horizontal/composite synchronous signal terminal, when it is determined that the horizontal synchronous signal is not input from said synchronous-on-green terminal.* Since Inui has a horizontal input terminal 15 and requires that terminal 15 be checked (step S6) for input of a horizontal sync signal, it would not have been obvious to skip step S6. That is, it would not have been obvious to return to the step of *checking said horizontal/composite synchronous signal terminal* after determining that *after determining that the horizontal synchronous signal is not input from said synchronous-on-green terminal after determining that the vertical synchronous signal is not input from said vertical synchronous signal terminal after determining that the horizontal synchronous signal is not input from said horizontal/composite synchronous signal terminal,* because the step of checking for the horizontal sync signal via the

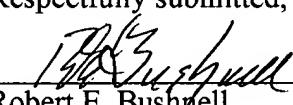
horizontal sync terminal 15 would be skipped and there is no teaching which would have suggested to one of ordinary skill in the art that the step of checking for the horizontal sync signal via the horizontal sync terminal 15 could be skipped.

Accordingly, the rejection of claims 1-22 is deemed to be in error and should be withdrawn.

The examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the application, withdraw the objections and/or rejections and pass the application to issue in view of the above amendments and/or remarks.

A fee of \$110.00 is incurred by filing of a petition for one month extension of time. Applicant's check drawn to the order of the Commissioner accompanies this. Should the check become lost or detached from the file, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 02-4943 and advise the undersigned attorney accordingly. Also, should the enclosed check be deemed to be deficient or excessive in payment, the Commissioner is authorized to charge or credit our deposit account and notify the undersigned attorney of any such transaction.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert E. Bushnell
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No.: 27,774

1522 K Street, N.W.
Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20005-1202
(202) 638-5740

Folio: P54346
Date: 8/2/99
I.D.: REB/MDP